



SIX YEARS OLD

BY
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SIX YEARS OLD was first produced as a part of Corkscrew Theater Festival (Thomas Kapusta, Artistic Director; Alexander Donnelly, Executive Director) by Madeleine Goldsmith at the Paradise Factory, New York City, in July 2019. It was directed by Helen Handelman, the set design was by You-Shin Chen, the costume design was by Ricky Reynoso, the lighting design was by Stacey Derosier, the sound design was by Renee Yeong, the choreographer was Jonathan Matthews, the stage manager was Matt Grimaldi, and the production stage manager was Katie Cecil Cairns. The cast was as follows:

ADALAIDE Julia Weldon
DEWEY Conor William Wright
RACHEL Meghan E. Jones
KIM Diane Chen
DR. JANET Marlena Mack
MS. RAMONA Helen Handelman

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CHARACTERS

ADALAIDE...first grade, six years old

DEWEY...preschool, four years old

AMY...their mother

KIM...their babysitter

DR. JANET...a psychologist

MS. RAMONA...an elementary school teacher

PLACE

An apartment

A psychologist's office

A dance class

NOTE

[...] muttered or said to oneself

CAPS emphasis, not necessarily yelling

Please cast a gender-nonconforming or nonbinary person as Adalaide, and a femme-of-center gender-nonconforming or nonbinary person as Kim.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

These roles are meant for adults; no kids allowed.

That said, the adults playing kids should not all the time be “playing kids” (baby voices, etc.) Adalaide and Dewey are adult-serious about themselves and about kid stuff. We should get to see them embodied as the mature beings they imagine themselves to be. They are also kid-silly about the adult stuff they don't fully understand yet, and feel friction between the way they express themselves and the seriousness of what they're trying to get across. Respect for their little minds is key! Let them feel big feelings! And proceed with care!

A few more pieces about the world they live in:

Franklin the teddy bear is a member of the family.

The D.O.A. (Department of Adalaides) operates as a clique formed by Adalaide's classmates Gary and Ghita entirely to exclude Adalaide from playing on the swings at recess. They made membership badges with drawings of Adalaide's face on them. They call her a troll and run away whenever she approaches. She spends pretty much every recess sitting a few yards away from the swings, watching them play. Gary and Ghita also have play dates outside of school, to which Adalaide is not invited, where they do boring things that Adalaide wouldn't want to do anyway. Gary is the architect. He has a crush on Adalaide and doesn't want to admit it.

Adalaide really loves *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and *Yentl*. She doesn't understand why Yentl and Han Solo give her a cry-y feeling in her belly. Same goes for that part in Book 5 where Ron and Hermione are made prefects and Harry isn't.

iPad time is the ultimate reward. Adalaide always plays chess or mancala. Dewey always plays *Minecraft*.

Amy and her husband are good parents. They just don't always know how to handle their complex and wonderful kids.

Adalaide's favorite animal is the naked mole rat.

*I'm so beautiful;
Everybody's welcome to this point of view.*

—Divine

SIX YEARS OLD

MORNING

ADALAIDE. (*Off.*) Get the iPad or else I am not wearing pants today

In the morning, before school.

A new-construction-type apartment living room in an expensive American city.

Someone is living here beyond their means.

Toys everywhere.

Enter Adalaide, dancing, without pants.

CAN I HAVE LEMON COOKIES

KIM. (*Off.*) No!

ADALAIDE. Here are all of my reasons why Kim is a mole rat

Kim smells like chicken

She has a big butt

She has hairy legs

DEWEY. (*Off.*) Adalaide!

ADALAIDE. She is stupid and smelly like a naked mole rat

And has big fat butt cheeks

KIM. (*Off.*) Adalaide, please come back here

ADALAIDE. She can't dance

And she smells bad

And

She poops in her pants alllllllll the time

KIM. (*Off.*) I do not poop in my pants

ADALAIDE. (*Yelling.*) Did you know that Ginny Weasley opened the Chamber of Secrets?

KIM. (*Off.*) Yes I did

Enter Kim, with pants.

ADALAIDE. Get on your knees

KIM. Stop that

ADALAIDE. Beg me

KIM. No

ADALAIDE. I'm going to tell my mom that you used profanity in front of me

KIM. I'm counting

ADALAIDE. You were going to say mother-effer

KIM. One

ADALAIDE. Two

KIM. No iPad

ADALAIDE. I can make my own decisions

KIM. You are six

ADALAIDE. I am mature

My progress reports say that I am quote wise beyond my years

KIM. Mature people put their pants on

ADALAIDE. Did you know that Ginny Weasley—

KIM. Opened the Chamber of Secrets

ADALAIDE. Fine

Adalaide puts her pants on.

KIM. Thank you

ADALAIDE. I was cold

(Yelling.) Dewey!!!

Do you want Storm Troopers at school?

DEWEY. *(Off.)* What did you say Adalaide?

KIM. You need to stop

ADALAIDE. DEWEY

COME

KIM. You are going to be late

ADALAIDE. I am never late

I can do whatever I want

Walk in
Pick my nose
Use words like mother-effer

Adalaide starts trying to touch Kim's butt.

KIM. That's it
No scooters today

ADALAIDE. Do not tell me what to do, *mother-effer*

DEWEY. (*Off.*) Storm Troopers?

ADALAIDE. [mother-effer]

KIM. Put them back!

DEWEY. (*Off.*) Storm Troopers!

KIM. Your mom is going to—
[ugh babies]

Adalaide freezes.

ADALAIDE. Dewey!!!

Kim said that you are a baby!!!

Enter Dewey, pantsless, indignant, immediately.

DEWEY. I am not a baby
I am four

LATER.

Adalaide lies flat on the floor.

Dewey does the same.

ADALAIDE. (*To Kim.*) I wish Ali was taking me to school
I have three babysitters

Ali

Angela

And you

Angela plays chess really well

And Ali tells me about her boyfriends

And you're my least favorite

(*Rolling over.*) What are your favorite movies?

Mine include

The Force Awakens

YENTL

Kim did you know that Barbra Streisand played Yentl in *Yentl*?

KIM. Please get up

DEWEY. (*Indignant.*) But it's my birthday

ADALAIDE. Do you know *Yentl*?

KIM. Your birthday was last week

DEWEY. NO IT WASN'T

ADALAIDE. Do you—

KIM. YES I KNOW YENTL

PAPA CAN YOU HEAR ME

SO STOP BEING—

Or Else I Am Going To Get Very Mad

And you don't want to see me mad

ADALAIDE. Jeez don't flip your lid, Kimberly

LATER.

Kim watches as the kids put on their shoes. Adalaide pauses.

ADALAIDE. Dewey, do you want Franklin?

Dewey tosses his shoes aside, and slinks away to his bedroom with a grin on his face.

KIM. No Frank—

[fuck]

NO FRANKLIN

Do you know what's going to happen if you keep making him do bad things?

ADALAIDE. (*Shoes on hands.*) Uh NOTHING?

KIM. NO

I am going to tell your mom that you were not cooperating

And that you were late because you wouldn't put your shoes on

And it will be no iPad

ADALAIDE. (*Clapping shoes.*) Mommy loves me

KIM. No she doesn't

Not if you're late

ADALAIDE. You're mean

KIM. You're gonna get punished

ADALAIDE. You would get fired

KIM. For what

ADALAIDE. Punishing me

KIM. Fine

Your teacher is gonna be mad then

Adalaide tosses her shoes.

ADALAIDE. My teachers say that I'm very spirited
But they don't like it when I say stuff about penises

KIM. No iPad

ADALAIDE. No!

Enter Dewey, with Franklin: a teddy bear he clutches to his chest with intensity.

Kim grabs the bear.

KIM. We gotta put him away Dew

ADALAIDE. (*Philosophically.*) Papa, can you hear me?

DEWEY. But he's gonna be lonely

ADALAIDE. [luke I am your papa]

KIM. He's gonna be fine

He's got all his other friends

DEWEY. (*Getting worked up.*) But they're lonely too!

KIM. We don't need to cry

ADALAIDE. Stop crying you naked mole rat

DEWEY. Don't call me a naked mole rat

ADALAIDE. That is what you are

You are a naked mole rat

Because under your clothes you are naked

And you were adopted from a family of mole rats

DEWEY. No I was not!

ADALAIDE. Under your clothes you are naked, right?!

DEWEY. No (?)

ADALAIDE. Why do you think Mommy and Daddy leave us with
Stupid Kim all the time

You are not of our species

SIX YEARS OLD

by Daphne Silbiger

1 man, 3 women, 2 nonbinary

Adalaide is six years old, and she knows a few things: Her stupid babysitter Kim is stupid, her younger brother Dewey is a naked mole rat, and she does NOT like being treated like a girl. Though Kim takes Adalaide's frustrations seriously and tries to offer support, Adalaide's family and peers discourage her, leaving her to seek out dangerous measures in order to transform into who she was born to be (her hero, Han Solo). SIX YEARS OLD is a comic and poignant play reflecting back on the wild fantasies and serious desires of queer childhood.

"SIX YEARS OLD is a gem of a play... special and different. ...[it] treats its characters, including the fascinating children, evenhandedly and with an odd dignity that makes the play a vivid character study."

—TheaterScene.net

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